

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising a first oligomeric compound and a second oligomeric compound, wherein:

~~at least a portion of said~~ the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing with ~~at least a portion of said~~ to the second oligomeric compound,

~~at least a portion of said~~ the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing to a selected target nucleic acid,

~~one of said~~ the first and ~~said~~ second oligomeric compounds comprises a plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups, and

~~the other one of said~~ the first and ~~said~~ second oligomeric compounds comprises a plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups and wherein essentially each of ~~said~~ the nucleosides is other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry and wherein at least one of the nucleosides having 3'-endo conformational geometry is a 2'-fluoro modified nucleoside comprising a purine heterocyclic base;

each of the first and second oligomeric compounds independently comprises from about 12 to about 30 nucleosides; and

wherein said first and second oligomeric compounds the composition optionally further comprise comprises at least one or more phosphate group, groups, a 5' or 3' overhang overhangs, stabilizing groups or a conjugate group groups.

2. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ the first oligomeric compound comprises a the plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups and wherein essentially each of ~~said~~ the nucleosides is other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry.

3. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ the second oligomeric compound comprises a the plurality of linked nucleosides linked by internucleoside linking groups and wherein essentially each of ~~said~~ the nucleosides is other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said the nucleosides of said the second oligomeric compound comprise a β -D-ribofuranose sugar group.
6. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3'-terminus of said the first oligomeric compound comprises a stabilizing or conjugate group.
7. (currently amended) The composition of claim 6 wherein said the stabilizing group is a capping group or a dTdT dimer.
8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said the first oligomeric compound ~~comprises~~ comprises a 5'-phosphate group.
- 10-13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said the internucleoside linking groups of said the first and second oligomeric ~~compound~~ compounds is, independently, a phosphodiester or a phosphorothioate.
- 15-19. (canceled).
20. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3'-terminus of said the second oligomeric compound comprises a stabilizing or conjugate group.
21. (currently amended) The composition of claim 20 wherein said the stabilizing group is a capping group or a dTdT dimer.
22. (currently amended) The composition of claim 20 wherein the 3'-terminus of said the second oligomeric compound comprises a conjugate group.

23-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The composition of claim 2 1 wherein each of said the nucleosides of the said first and second oligomeric compound compounds has have 3'-endo conformational geometry.

27-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The composition of claim 28 1 wherein each of said the nucleosides that are other than 2'-OH and have 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-substituent group is, independently, selected from -F, -O-CH₂CH₂-O-CH₃, -O-CH₃, -O-(CH₂)₂-O-N(Rj)(Rj), -O-(CH₂)₂-O-(CH₂)₂-N(Rj)(Rj), -O-CH₂-C(=O)-N(Rj)(Rj), -O-CH₂-CH=CH₂ or -O-CH₂-CH-CH₂-NH(Rj) -O-(CH₂)₃-NH(Rj) where each Rj is is, independently, H or C₁-C₁₀ alkyl.

31-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said the first and said the second oligomeric compounds are a complementary pair of siRNA oligonucleotides.

40. (currently amended) The composition of claim 39 wherein said the first and said the second oligomeric compounds have 3'-dTdT overhangs.

41. (currently amended) The composition of claim 39 wherein said the first and said the second oligomeric compounds have blunt ends.

42. (currently amended) The oligomeric compound composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one terminal cap moiety.

43. (currently amended) The ~~oligomeric compound~~ composition of claim 42 wherein said the terminal cap moiety is attached to one or both of the 3'-terminal and 5'-terminal ends of said the second oligomeric compound.

44. (currently amended) The ~~oligomeric compound~~ composition of claim 43 wherein said the terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

45-48. (canceled).

49. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said the first and second oligomeric compounds has from about 12 to about 24 ~~nucleobases~~ nucleosides.

50. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of said the first and second oligomeric compounds has from about 19 to about 23 ~~nucleobases~~ nucleosides.

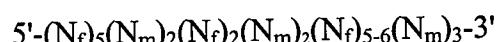
51-52. (canceled)

53. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting gene expression reducing target messenger RNA comprising contacting one or more cells, a tissue or an animal with a composition of claim 1.

54. (new) The composition of claim 2 wherein each of the nucleoside having 3'-endo conformational geometry comprises a 2'-substituent group independently selected from -F and -O-CH₃.

55. (new) The composition of claim 54 wherein at least 7 of the 2'-substituent groups are -O-CH₃ and at least 12 of the 2'-substituent groups are -F.

56. (new) The composition of claim 55 wherein the first oligomeric compound comprises the formula:



wherein:

each N_f is a 2'-F modified nucleoside; and
each N_m is a 2'-OCH₃ modified nucleoside.